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EX-BULGARIAN COLONEL DESCRIBES MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN BULGARIA

*[Comment: On 1 February 1953, Stratiotika Nea published the following article written by Karadakov, a Bulgarian colonel, who recently escaped from Bulgaria.]*

By an order of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and the Council of Ministers, ratified by the General Staff of the Bulgarian Army, the 1927, 1928, and 1938 conscript classes were recalled for temporary duty, reporting on 1 November 1952. The first to be called were students, employees, and intellectuals, who for various reasons had been exempted from military service in the past.

Among the persons recalled to duty, those who have anti-Communist convictions and for whom the Communist Militia has records or former membership in the Agrarian Party and of their adherence to the opposition, are being sent to the labor service trudovaks. These individuals are compelled, under the strictest regimentation and the worst conditions, to learn the Russian language and the party's doctrine.

The Central Council of Trade Unions circulated a special confidential order to the directors of the economic and technical enterprises and to the party supervisors in enterprises and factories that they use all available workers to complete the economic plan by the end of 1952. Furthermore, the order mentions that any irresponsible action related to the production plan or any treacherous action by workers or directors should be reported instantly to the secretaries of the party. Those guilty will be punished most severely.

Officers in the Ministry of Defense have been assigned as special control agents in the textile, shoe, rubber, cement, uranium, and metal industries and the coal mines of Dimitrovo (Pernik), Maritsa, Pirin, etc. This indicates very clearly that all production is intended for the military preparations of the USSR and that Bulgaria is an occupied country which works exclusively for the Soviet military industries.

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The airfields of Yambol, Telish, Stara Zagora, Plovdiv, and Gorna Oryakho-vitsa have been converted into military air bases, with Soviet planes of the MIG-15 type, Soviet pilots, and Soviet soldiers located there. Bulgarian officers, even if they are fanatic Communists, cannot enter these bases without special permission from the military commander of the base.

Soviet specialists control the war industries of Kazanluk and Sopot and the aircraft factories of Bozhurishte, Lovech, Telish, Yambol, and Plovdiv, where the work is being carried out according to their own military plans.

These so-called Soviet specialists have also been controlling for a long time the rail, sea, and Danube transportation network. However, recent delays in production, damages to engines, and, in general, all treacherous acts in the sector of transportation have been so numerous that the Central Committee of the party has established a group, headed by Dimo Dichev [chairman, State Control Commission], member of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, which safeguards transportation.

Dissatisfaction in the ranks of the Bulgarian Army is very great. The officers in charge of political activities in army units are free to punish severely those soldiers guilty of any antinational activity. Consequently, in the army camps, the execution of soldiers in the presence of the whole unit is a very common sight. About a month ago, in the camp of the 13th Infantry Regiment in Kyustendil, three soldiers were shot because they attempted "to escape abroad so they could join the Bulgarian National Committee and fight against the Communist dictatorship."

Members of Tayfun, a voluntary defense organization, to which Communists of the ages of 14-32 are being accepted, carry light Soviet arms and are attached to the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior. These organizations are headed by Communist generals who have graduated from the Frunze Military Academy and the Beriya school for Soviet secret agents in Moscow.

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